

News Release



Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PREScribed BURN AT SEATUCK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Long Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex will be conducting a prescribed burn during March 2010, on grasslands at the Seatuck NWR, Islip, New York. The use of prescribed fire is part of the Refuge habitat management program.

The objective of the Seatuck NWR burn is to restore wildlife habitat by removing thatch, woody vegetation and stands of non-native grasses from areas that are managed for native warm season grasses. Removing invasive, non-native plants and woody vegetation will allow the growth of native grassland plants that provide good wildlife habitat. A controlled burn will also reduce the chance for future wildfires by removing standing dead vegetation that burns easily. The proposed burn unit at Seatuck NWR is 24 acres. Once restored, this area will provide valuable foraging and nesting habitat for northern bobwhite, tree swallows and other grassland birds, song birds and waterfowl.

The Refuge has safely conducted prescribed burns in previous years to restore wildlife habitat and control invasive plant species. The proposed prescribed burns will be conducted during the late winter and early spring when ground vegetation is dry enough to burn, but wet enough to prevent extreme fires. Fire breaks will be established around the burn unit to prevent the fire from spreading on and off Refuge lands. Actual dates of the prescribed burns will depend on weather conditions, favorable wind direction for smoke to rise and disperse, and the availability of trained wildland firefighters. To ensure public safety, local emergency personnel, including the local police and fire departments will be notified. It is estimated that the burn will be completed in one day.

For additional information, please view our website <http://longislandrefuges.fws.gov/> or contact the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex Office at 631-286-0485.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

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